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# Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 20693 221006Z

14
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02

PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 ACDA-10 SAM-01 /063 W
---------- 101542
R 220534Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1087
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
DIRNSA WASHDC
USIA WASHDC
CINSPAC HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS BANGKOK 20693

USIA PASS IEA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MARR, MPOL, MILI, TH
SUBJ: GEN. THAWIT REMARKS JULY 21 ON AIT AND AMERICAN ADVISERS

1. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 21, DEFENSE MINISTER GEN. THAWIT SENIWONG NA AYUTTHAYA RESPONDED TO QUERIES FROM NEWSMEN ON AMERICAN EXPERTS TO REMAIN IN THAILAND FOLLOWING THE MACTHAI WITHDRAWAL JULY 20 AND AIT.

2. FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICAIL USIS TRANSLATION OF EXCERPTS FROM GEN. THAWIT'S REMARKS.
BEGIN EXCERPTS
REPORTER: WHAT WILL WE DO REGARDING THE BELONGINGS AND EQUIPMENT TO THE AMERICAN MILITARY IN THAILAND WHICH THEY HAVE DISMANTLED?
THAWIT: THEY HAVE GIVEN IT TO US.
REPORTER: WHICH OF OUR UNITS WILL WE USE TO BE IN CHARGE OF THEM?
THAWIT: THAT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE AIR FORCE, BECAUSE THEY ARE AIR BASES. IT DOESN'T CONCERN THE ARMY.
REPORTER: AFTER JULY 20, ABOUT HOW MANY AMERICAN EXPERTS WILL REMAIN HERE IN ORDER TO TRAIN OUR MEN IN THE USE OF THAT
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 20693 221006Z

EQUIPMENT?

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THAWIT: NOT VERY MANY, AND MOST OF THEM ARE JUSMAG ADVISERS.
REPORTER: BUT AREN'T THERE ADVISERS HERE ALREADY?
THAWIT: YES.
REPORTER: BUT THEY SAY THAT THERE WILL BE ANOTHER GROUP
OF MEN WHO WILL BE IN CHARGE OF TRAINING OUR MEN?
THAWIT: THEY ARE NOT A LARGE NUMBER AS FAR AS I KNOW.
YOU SHOULD ASK THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. FOR INSTANCE,
THERE MUST BE AMERICANS TO TRAIN OUR MEN IN THE USE AND OPERATION
OF THE SEISMOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT.
REPORTER: WILL THE MEN REMAINING HERE HAVE TO BE FOR ALL THREE
ARMED FORCES,OR ONLY FOR THE ARMY?
THAWIT: FOR ALL THREE ARMED FORCES.
REPORTER: WHAT WILL WE DO REGARDING THE AMMUNITION WHICH THE
U.S. WILL LEAVE HERE IN THAILAND?
THAWIT: WE MUST BUY IT,OF COURSE.
REPORTER: HAVE NEGOTIATIONS BEEN HELD YET?
THAWIT: THERE IS NO NEED TO HOLD NEGOTIATIONS. THE
MATTER IS ENDED, AND WE MUST BUY IT.
REPORTER: WHAT WILL IT COST US?
THAWIT: MOST PROBABLY AS MUCH AS 900 MILLION BAHT.
($45 MILLION U.S.) THE U.S. CANNOT GIVE IT TO US FREE OF CHARGE.
THAT IS DEFINITE.
REPORTER: COULDN'T THE U.S. GIVE IT TO US FREE OF CHARGE,
AS THE RESULT OF NEGOTIATIONS HELD?
THAWIT: (DOES NOT ANSWER)
REPORTER: IS IT ONLY AMMUNITION, OR ARE THERE SOME WEAPONS
ALSO?
THAWIT: IT IS ONLY AMMUNITION, TOTALING ABOUT 15,000
TONS. THE U.S. HAS NOT TAKEN AWAY THAT AMMUNITION; IT IS
IN THAILAND. HOW PAYMENT WILL BE MADE BY INSTALLMENTS DEPENDS
ON US, AS WELL AS ON ANY CONCESSIONS WE CAN OBTAIN FROM AMERICA.
REPORTER: HAS AN ALLOCATION BEEN OBTAINED YET?
THAWIT: NOT YET.
REPORTER: COULDN'T IT BE SOLD TO US AT A SPECIAL
"FRIENDSHIP" PRICE?
THAWIT: I HAVE ALREADY TOLD YOU THAT THE PRICE IS 900
MILLION BAHT.
REPORTER: DO YOU FEEL THAT THAT PRICE IS CHEAP OR HIGH?
THAWIT: I HAVEN'T MADE ANY CALCULATION YET.
REPORT: IS THIS 900 MILLION BAHT THE PRICE DEMANDED BY
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PAGE 03 BANGKO 20693 221006Z

THE U.S. ?
THAWIT: YES. ITS SAYS IT CANNOT REDUCE THE PRICE TO A
LOWER LEVEL THAN THAT. THAT IS THE INFORMATION I HAVE
RECEIVED FROM THE STATEMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS.
END TEXT.
WHITEHOUSE

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